

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

Confidentially Supplied.

16th January, 1941.

RESEARCH SECTION MEMORANDUM (R.S.M.8)

ADDENDUM NO. 11. (CONTINUED)

NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA

NOTES ON EMPLOYMENT IN CERTAIN SKILLED TRADES

Addition to Report for December, 1940.

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING:

Victoria -

Textile and clothing factories are busy, mainly because of large defence orders. It is reported that there are difficulties in securing girls, but this scarcity has been felt for several years. For the most part, sufficient supplies of semi-skilled labour appear to be available. Skilled workers appear to be fully employed, and some overtime is being worked, but our reports suggest that production is not being restricted to any important extent by shortages of labour.

It is reported that buttons, many of which were formerly imported from Japan, are now scarce and expensive.

BUILDING:

New South Wales -

Officials of the various building trade unions report that there is a good deal of unemployment amongst their members. A conservative estimate of the number unemployed in December was stated to be about 3,900, of whom 2,500 were carpenters. This high level of unemployment was said to be due to the completion of most of the military camps which will be needed, and to the continued decline in civil building. It is reported that some skilled building tradesmen have already left the industry to take unskilled or semi-skilled jobs.

Victoria -

Our reports suggest that building of military camps has slackened, and that there is some tendency for civil building also to be reduced. There appear to be few unemployed building tradesmen, but no shortages of labour are expected.

Shortages of raw materials for civil building are said to be still acute, especially of structural steel, galvanized iron and copper piping.

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